

old migrant families from former East Pakistan, who arrived in India immediately after partition and prior to 31.3.1958 and were settled in Pilibhit district have been given the admissible rehabilitation assistance years ago and they are now deemed to have merged with local population. There is no proposal under consideration to give them any further rehabilitation assistance.

[English]

### **Benefits of Handicapped Persons**

2772. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons having physically disability on face, lips and nose with nasal defects (HARE-LIPS) are considered eligible to avail benefits admissible to physically handicapped ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The minimum degree of disability should be 40% in order to be eligible for any concessions /benefits.

### **Chief Minister's Conference during October, 1991**

2773. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Ministers was convened on October 4, 1991 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the Conference; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Chief Ministers' was held in New Delhi on October 4-5, 1991.

(b) The following five subjects were on the Agenda of the Conference:-

(1) Prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(2) Working of the Public Distribution System.

(3) Maintenance of land records.

(4) Working of cooperatives.

(5) Mounting expenditure of the Government.

However, due to paucity of time, items at S.No. 1, 2 and 5 above could be discussed.

(c) In regard to the item relating to the prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes the Conference agreed that this was a national question and to be considered on the basis of national consensus and that the Chief Ministers would be in direct touch with this matter on a continuing basis in order to take effective and timely action. The Conference also made suggestions about filling important positions by the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes and filling quotas of appointment to the posts reserved for them.

In respect of other two items, there was exchange of views on how to improve the working of the public distribution system and how to curb the mounting expenditure of the Government on the Non-Plan side, and it was *inter alia*, agreed that a new revamped public distribution system in certain identified

areas could be put into operation with effect from 1.1.1992.

[Translation]

**Anomaly Regarding Retirement Age in B.S.F.**

**2774. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in the retirement age of commandant and gazetted officers of lower and upper ranks in the Border Security Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove this anomaly; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Officers of the rank of Commandant and below in the Border Security Force superannuate at the age of 55 years. Officers of the rank of higher than that of Commandant superannuate at the age of 58 years.

(b) to (d). These provisions have been made due to operational requirements. Therefore, there is no anomaly and there is no proposal to revise the same.

[English]

**Marine Communication Service**

**2775. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one Marine Communication net is not upto International standard as a result there is considerable loss of foreign exchange;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no VHF net-work along the coast and the radio facility are rather tardy; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V.RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Marine Communications network is working according to World Administrative Radio Conference 87 recommendations. Total revenue earned through Coastal Wireless Stations during 90-91 was Rs. 22,72,364/-.

(b) VHF radio facilities are available at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Cochin & Vizag Cost Radio Stations and are working satisfactorily.

(c) Does not arise.

**Super Thermal Power Project at Mangalore**

**2776. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed Super Thermal Power Project at Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(b) the time by which the plant is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The National